

RADIO STAMPS

by

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Hello again, and welcome back to another edition of Radio Stamps. A special welcome if you're listening for the first time.

Radio Stations on Stamps

This is program 16 and the topic today is radio stations on stamps. This is one of the more popular radio subjects on stamps, and there are dozens of different stamps from around the world that feature radio stations in their design, or commemorate the anniversary of radio stations.

On today's program I have two collecting tips for you: the world's first radio station stamp, and the most recent stamp to commemorate a radio station. These stamps would certainly make great additions to your collection.

World's First Radio Station Stamp

The first postage stamp in the world to feature a radio station in its design was issued by Guatemala in 1919. It shows the twin towers and antenna system of the radio station at Inalambrico. The stamp itself has an ornately designed frame or border, in red orange, and the radio station is printed in black on a white background, in the center. The denomination of the stamp is 30 centavos. There's an inscription, in very small capital letters, at the base of the center design. It reads "TORRES DEL INALAMBRICO". Although you'll notice that there's a date, "1918", in the upper right corner of this stamp, the Scott catalogue of postage stamps lists the date of issue as 1919.

This stamp was surcharged in 1920 with an overprint, in black on 2 lines. The overprint reads "1920, 2 CENTAVOS". In 1922 it was surcharged with a different overprint, in black again but on 3 lines. The overprint reads "1922, 25 CENTAVOS".

Here are the Scott catalogue numbers and the dates of issue for these 3, historical, radio station stamps from Guatemala. The first stamp, with a catalogue number of 162, was issued on May the 3rd in 1919. The second stamp, catalogue number 166, was issued in January 1920, but the actual date isn't known. The third issue, catalogue number 195, was released in August 1922. Like the second stamp, the actual date of issue isn't known.

Most Recent Radio Station Stamp

Well, that's one end of the spectrum, the world's first radio station stamp. What about the most recent issue? According to my checklist, the latest stamp to commemorate a radio station was issued on April the 2nd in 1991, by Ecuador. The city is Quito, and the station is Radio Quito.

Radio Quito is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and 2 commemorative stamps have been issued for the occasion. Both of these multi-colour stamps have a white border with a pale yellow background. The design of the 2 stamps, with denominations of 200 and 500 sucres, is cartoon characters. The 200 sucre stamp, which is a vertical format, shows a waving cartoon announcer at the microphone. Perched above is a crowing rooster. The 500 sucre stamp is designed with a horizontal format. It shows a happy cartoon family listening to Radio Quito on their receiver.

Many thanks to Rich McVicar for this good collecting tip.

December Contest

I think it's just about time for another radio stamps contest. On the December program, in 2 months time, I'll have a contest, for the 60th anniversary of HCJB, to win the world's first radio station stamp. The prize for this worldwide contest will be the 1919 Guatemala stamp, in mint condition, that I described on today's program. I hope you'll be listening for this 60th anniversary Radio Stamps contest on the first Saturday of December, here on HCJB.

Next month, on program 17, in November, I'll have tips for you about the fun of collecting meter stamps from radio stations. Meter stamps are a great way to add variety to your collection. I'll hope you'll tune in.

That's all for today's program. If you have news about a new radio stamp, please write and let me know. I'd be glad to include it in an upcoming program. Your news for the program, and your suggestions for improvements, are always welcome. Here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, in the famous town of Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, in the province of Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.

(Almonte was the hometown of Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball. December 1991 is the 100th anniversary of the invention of basketball.)